

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 20 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 22 of page 1 of the specification as follows:

Another version of locked-center idler incorporates a pre-loaded spring. Installation of this version entails fastening the idler firmly in place. Then, activating the pre-loaded spring moves the pulley into tensioning position against the belt. This installation procedure is less strenuous and less prone to error. There is ~~less~~ an opportunity for the idler to provide some, but insufficient, belt tension. However, this procedure still allows an installation where activation of the pre-loaded spring is forgotten. Thus, no initial tension is placed upon the belt. Further, this version of locked-center idler is more complicated in design and construction with the attendant increase in expense to build.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 20 of page 5 of the specification as follows:

This configuration cannot be expected to produce as much tension on belt 40 ~~is as~~ can the prior embodiment. The amount of pressure idler 10 can place upon belt 40 is the torque placed upon tension member 12 divided by the length of the lever arm defined by the distance from the center of dual function fastener to the center of pulley 18. As can be seen, the lever arm of the prior embodiment is much shorter than the lever arm of the current embodiment. However, the construction of this embodiment has the advantage that tensioning member 12 is of a ~~plain~~ generally planar design and applicable to certain engine and power transmission drive geometries.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on line 13 of page 6 of the specification as follows:

In sum, the preferred embodiments described herein and depicted in the Figures allow an automatic locked-center idler of simple design and construction that is installable without being ~~unduly~~ unduly strenuous or error prone. [[.]]